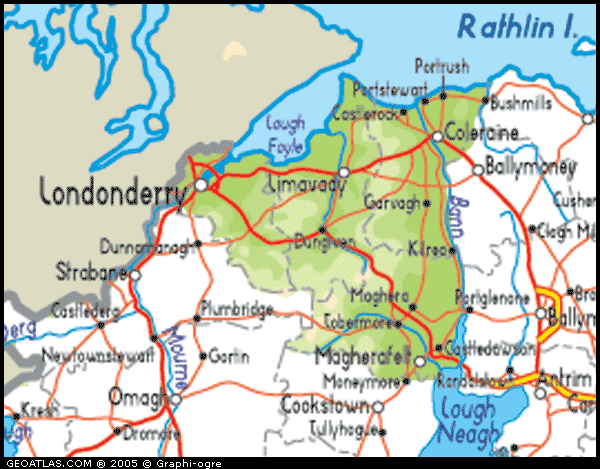
**Droppin Well Bombing**



The Droppin Well Bombing occurred on December 6, 1982, in the Droppin Well Disco and bar in Northern Irish town of BallyKelly, County Londonderry. A small bomb, which was believed to be small enough to fit into a handbag went off in the bar and killed seventeen people including 11 soldiers. Because the building had been poorly constructed the weak supports of the heavy concrete roof gave way under the force of the blast, bringing tons of concrete down onto the people inside.

The disco was targeted because it was known to be a routine location for British Army soldiers from the nearby Shackleton Barracks to unwind where people were predominantly protestant, however, ad least one Roman Catholic was killed in the explosion. At the time of the blast there was an estimated 150 patrons inside. It took hours to pull survivors from the rubble and ultimately 17 people were found to have died, or died in hospital form their injuries. Over thirty people had been seriously injured, some permanently.

Suspicion immediately fell upon the Provision Irish Republican Army (PIRA), who had denied any involvement. Shortly afterwards the Irish National Liberation Army, a smaller republican paramilitary group, admitted responsibility for the bombing.

The attack was criticised by many on both sides of the conflict in Northern Ireland due to the high loss of civilian lives, six of whom were killed, none older than 26. The other elevens were soldiers. In an interview after the bombing, INLA Dominic McGlinchey said that the Droppin Well’s owner had been warned six times to stop offering “entertainment” to British soldiers. He added that the warned those who socialized with the soldiers, “knew full well that the warnings had been given and that the place was going to be bombed at some stage.”

A suspected operation to ferry INLA leader, Dominic McGlinchey into Armagh six days after the bombing was never proved when RUC officers shot dead INLA members Seamus Grew and Rodney Carroll near a vehicle checkpoint. It was later discovered that neither were armed.

Four years after the attack five people were convicted of involvement in the explosion. Four were given life sentences, whilst the fifth, the daughter and girlfriend of two of the other suspects was given 10 years for man’s slaughter, as the court believed she had been coerced into involvement.

A memorial stone had been raised at the site of Shackleton Barracks to the seventeen fatal casualties of the attack.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droppin_Well_bombing>

<http://www.nivets.org.uk/forums/showthread.php?333-The-Droppin-Well-bombing-December-6-1982>

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